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RP.

217638US-0PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

THOMAS REIRMEIER ET AL :

ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: NEW U.S. PCT APPLN :  
(Based on PCT/EP00/06056)

FILED: HERewith :

FOR: PROCESS FOR PREPARING :  
AMINES BY HOMOGENEOUSLY  
CATALYZED REDUCTIVE  
AMINATION OF CARBONYL  
COMPOUNDS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown on the marked-up copy following this amendment to read as follows.

a1 3. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sup>6</sup> to R<sup>9</sup> are selected independently from the group consisting of (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)-alkyl, (C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)-aryl, O-(C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)-alkyl, O-(C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)-aryl or an aliphatic or aromatic (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>9</sub>)-heterocycle containing from 1 to 4 nitrogen atoms.